



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – November 10, 2021

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, November 9, 2021

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

The Talbot County Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on November 9 with all Council members present except for Chuck Callahan.

Presentation of Proclamation for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month – November 2021

Council member Frank Divilio presented a proclamation on behalf of the Council to Mia Cranford, Director of Development, Talbot Hospice and members of the Talbot Hospice team for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month – November 2021. For more than 40 years, hospice has helped provide comfort and dignity to “millions of people, allowing them to spend their final months at home, surrounded by their loved ones. Hospice care offers person-centered, compassionate care, ensuring people dignity, choice, and quality of life. The hospice model involves an interdisciplinary, team-oriented approach to treatment, including expert medical care, quality symptom control, and comprehensive pain management as a foundation of care.” This year, Talbot Hospice has helped over 300 patients with hospice care and 105 patients with palliative care and operates Hospice House with 12 patient beds. The organization's new “Know Us Before You Need Us” booklet helps educate the community about hospice services before they are needed.

“What Talbot has here is something truly exceptional. Not every place has the resources that Talbot Hospice offers here. We truly value the work that you do and what you do for Talbot County,” commented Council Vice President Pete Leshner.

“Thank you for welcoming patients home at their end of life. My mother was in hospice care in 1999 and I know how much our family relied on the nurses and staff to put us at ease. Thank you for what you are doing for Talbot County,” added Council member Corey Pack.

“I remember my grandmother's end-of-life. It was such a blessing for my family. It touched my heart when she was there. I am very appreciative of what you do. I am amazed at the heart the volunteers and staff have to do this 365 days a year,” commented Council member Laura Price.

“I served on the board for Hospice of Queen Anne's. It means a lot to the community that you are here for all types of care. You take care of all ages of life. I greatly appreciate the services you provide. It does

take private donations to continue to provide the services you provide,” added Council member Frank Divilio.

Presentation of Proclamation for Animal Shelter Appreciation Week – November 7-13, 2021 -

Council member Frank Divilio presented a proclamation on behalf of the Council to Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director, Talbot Humane for Animal Shelter Appreciation Week – November 7 – 13, 2021. Animal shelters are vital resources in communities throughout the United States, serving as a safe haven for animals, a great place to adopt a new family pet, and as a place that provides critical services including, reuniting lost pets with their owners, teaching children to care about animals, offering spay/neuter services to help reduce the pet overpopulation, and investigating cruelty and neglect complaints. Crankshaw-Quimby reported that during the first quarter of the year, intake at Talbot Humane was up by 20 percent, which is a trend across the country. She also reported that there is no evidence of animals being surrendered after COVID, but the surrenders they are seeing may be due to housing issues and evictions. There are currently 122 animals at Talbot Humane – 105 cats, 13 canines, three small animals and one bird, as well as 23 animals in foster care. The Animal Control Division has responded to 119 complaints with an increase in complaints about cruelty and neglect due to stressors from the pandemic. Talbot Humane’s intervention program has been life-changing for animals on Mid-Shore, providing pet food, medical intervention, and skills for behavioral issues. This year, 200 animals did not enter the shelter due to the program helping to give people the skills they need to keep their pets. The organization uses volunteers year-round and hosts a number of events to help fund its services. There is currently a vacancy for an Animal Control Officer. Ms. Crankshaw-Quimby encouraged interested individuals to apply at www.talbothumane.org. On August 3, 2022, Talbot Humane will celebrate its 90th anniversary.

“I greatly appreciate the services you provide. You have excelled at letting everyone know all of the services you provide. You do a great job of letting people know what you do. It’s great to see the volunteers coming in to help. Animals are a great benefit to all – especially during the difficult mental health issues we are facing today,” commented Frank Divilio.

Presentation of 2020-2021 Annual Report for Talbot County Public Schools – Kelly Griffith, Ed. D., Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools; Susan Delean-Botkin, President, Talbot County Board of Education

The Council congratulated Dr. Griffith on her recent award as Superintendent of the Year for the State of Maryland. Dr. Griffith reported that Talbot County Public Schools had a very innovative and creative 2020-2021 year. She reported that Talbot County was one of the counties to have students attend the most in-person time during the COVID pandemic. She credited her staff working as a team to achieve this accomplishment. She shared the *2020-2021 Annual Report* with each Council member. Highlights from the report included:

2020-2021 Demographics:

- Enrollment of 4,524 students
- Growing Hispanic population (22%)
- 10% of Talbot County’s students are a special education population
- 121 homeless students
- TCPS employs 673 individuals

FY 2021 Accomplishments

- Talbot County has one of the highest graduation rates in the State at 96 percent and one of the lowest dropout rates in the State at 2 percent
- 68 percent of the senior class plan to attend a 2 or 4-year college

- \$19,299,348 earned in scholarships for this year's graduates
- 359 TCPS students took at least one of the Advance Placement (AP) tests; 71 TCPS AP Scholars
- Easton Elementary School opened and has received national recognition for a LEED Gold Building Certification award
- All children in Talbot County given free breakfast and free lunch this year through federal grant funding
- Expanded networking capability for students
- Raised \$500,000 for TCPS Education Foundation
- Increased mental health services through a grant

TCPS Community Partnerships:

- Mid-Shore Community Foundation (TCPS Community Award)
- Easton Utilities and Talbot County Education Foundation (District Partner of the Year)
- Higginbottom Orthodontics (Community Partner of the Year with Chapel District Elementary School)
- ACE Mentor Program (Community Partner of the Year with Easton High School)
- Talbot Historical Society (Community Partner of the Year with Easton Middle School)
- Academy Art Museum (Community Partner of the Year with Easton Elementary School)
- Tilghman Area Youth Association (TAYA) (Community Partner of the Year with Tilghman Elementary School)
- Rotary Club of St. Michaels (Community Partner of the Year with St. Michaels Campus)
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Trappe (Community Partner of the Year with White Marsh Elementary School)
- Tidewater Physical Therapy (Community Internship Partner of the Year)

She reported that the following are among the goals that TCPS will be working on in the future:

- Recruitment, Promotion and Retention of Staff
 - TCPS will have a highly qualified and diverse workforce
 - TCPS will identify, train and promote high quality staff
- Academic Equity and Achievement
 - TCPS staff and leadership will enact institutional practices, policies, and procedures that equitably serve the educational needs of all students
 - All TCPS students will have equitable access to high quality and culturally relevant instruction, curriculum and support
- Social and Emotional Learning
 - All TCPS students will have access to information, interventions, and supports to meet their social and emotional learning needs
 - TCPS will make social and emotional learning a priority. All students will engage in high quality prevention

Dr. Griffith reported that the TCPS proposed FY23 budget will be presented to the Board of Education members and community at the Board of Education meeting on December 15, 2021. TCPS would like to partner with Talbot County to prepare a State of the District Report in January 2022. Finally, American Education Week is the week of November 15, 2021 and Dr. Griffith thanked and recognized her entire staff for their outstanding work supporting children and families.

"My family was recently exposed to COVID. I appreciate the help in keeping my children up to date during the quarantine. The self-learning gained last year was helpful to their independence in completing their work through this time. Thank you for the good job you are doing," Council member Frank Divilio commented.

Presentation of Findings by Board of Education Redistricting Commission – Zach Smith, Chairperson, Board of Education Redistricting Commission; Members, Board of Education Redistricting Commission and Mark Cohoon, Talbot County GIS Manager

Zach Smith presented the findings on behalf of the nine member Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission to prepare a redistricting plan for the seven (7) Board of Education election districts based on the 2020 census data. In accordance with the Education Article § 3-12A-01, Md. Code Ann., the boundaries for the seven (7) Talbot County Board of Education election districts are required to be established promptly following each decennial census. The statute provides that the Redistricting Commission is to prepare a redistricting plan for the seven (7) Board of Education election districts. The districts are required to be reasonably compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population, and, in accordance with legal principles established by law, ensure that one (1) or more of the election districts encompasses residents in which a majority of the voting age population consists of racial minorities.

The Commission met on July 15, September 2, September 30 and October 7 to review current Board of Education election district maps as well as data from the 2020 Census. Based upon these meetings, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend a minimal change of a slight enlargement to District 1 aimed at increasing the minority population within this District, and a few minor refinements to certain district boundaries to better align with census block boundaries. Mr. Smith reported that the recommended changes, if adopted by Council, would not cause any of the current members of the Board of Education to reside outside of their current District.

The Commission acknowledged and thanked the County staff for their invaluable support and input throughout this process. Council Vice President Leshner thanked Smith and Cohoon for doing this work on a compressed deadline with the delay in the release of the 2020 Census data.

The Council voted unanimously to approve a motion for the County Attorney to draw up legislation to amend Board of Education election district maps as recommended by the Board of Education Redistricting Commission.

Introduction of Numbered Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 281, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN (THE “PLAN”) TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP PORTIONS OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF TRAPPE, MARYLAND, ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAKESIDE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (THE “LAKESIDE PROJECT”) (FORMERLY KNOWN AS “TRAPPE EAST”), FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 54, PARCEL 304; TAX MAP 55, PARCELS 14, 15, 17, 19, 44, 65, 83, AND 85; AND, TAX MAP 59, PARCEL 4, THE TOTAL AREA CONSISTING OF EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE ACRES, MORE OR LESS (THE “PROPERTY”), FROM “S-2” AND “W-2” (AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS OR EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING, OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY, MULTI-USE, OR SHARED SANITARY FACILITIES ARE PROGRAMMED FOR PROGRESS WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS) TO “S-1” AND “W-1” (AREAS SERVED OR TO BE SERVED BY COMMUNITY, MULTI-USE, OR SHARED SANITARY FACILITIES WHICH ARE EXISTING, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR HAVE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS); TO AMEND THE PLAN TO ADD CERTAIN WATER AND SEWER CAPITAL PROJECTS RELATED TO THE LAKESIDE PROJECT AND EXISTING SYSTEMS FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2030; AND, TO AMEND THE PLAN TO UPDATE THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION IN THE PLAN RELATIVE TO THE LAKESIDE PROJECT AND EXISTING SYSTEMS, *as amended*, IN CERTAIN RESPECTS REGARDING THE CONNECTION OF PHASE 1, SECTION 1 OF THE LAKESIDE PROJECT TO THE EXISTING TRAPPE WASTEWATER SYSTEM

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ANY INTEREST TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND HOLDS IN FLOOD AVENUE TO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND THE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME

Council member Price stated the purpose of the proposed legislation is consistent with representations made by the developer for the Lakeside project. "This amendment is fair to the developer and the Town of Trappe because it does not delay the Lakeside project, given that the developer may connect units to the Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) immediately and for a period of 18 months. An alternative amendment that would bar connection to the Trappe WWTP until it is upgraded to ENR standards would delay the project for at least 18 months and likely more while the Trappe plant is upgraded.

This amendment reasonably limits the negative environmental impact of additional wastewater flowing through the existing substandard Trappe plant, by allowing connection of only a likely modest number of new dwelling units that will be operational within 18 months, prohibiting further connections to the Trappe WWTP after that, and requiring connected dwelling units to be redirected to the new plant when operational.

This amendment therefore is a fair compromise in that it limits potential further environmental damage, while not delaying the Lakeside project from moving forward even before issuance of an MDE permit."

Specifically, the proposed conditions are highlighted in underlined sections as noted below:

An Enhanced Nutrient Removal ("ENR") 0.54 MGD Membrane Bio-Reactor ("MBR") wastewater treatment plant ("WWTP") and collection system will be designed, constructed in phases and operated to serve the proposed Lakeside development within the Trappe East Sewer District. The proposed MBR ENR WWTP will be designed such that it can be constructed in phases. This type of design will eliminate operating challenges associated with the low flows generated by early phases of development and the inability of a WWTP constructed to full build-out capacity to operate properly at initial low flows. Phase 1 Section 1 of the proposed Lakeside project is expected to include approximately 84 single-family residential dwellings and a visitor and sales center. Sanitary sewer capacity for the proposed start-up phase will require treatment and disposal of approximately 30,000 to 40,000 gallons per day. The initial treatment and disposal capacity estimate includes consideration of flow equalization and peak-flow capacity. Start-up wastewater treatment for the Lakeside project may be provided by a modular ENR MBR WWTP, capable of operating at the initial development flow rates, or by a direct connection to the existing Trappe wastewater system provided that the existing WWTP is in compliance with its MDE permit and all other conditions imposed by MDE, and further provided that no portion of the start-up phase may be connected to the existing system more than 18 months after final approval of County Resolution No. 310 by MDE. Connection to the existing Town of Trappe wastewater system is also subject to the approval of the Town of Trappe, available WWTP capacity, and adequate access to the existing collection system. Within 18 months from issuance of all required permits and approvals for the new Lakeside WWTP, all wastewater from the start-up phase being treated by the existing Trappe wastewater system shall be redirected to the new Lakeside WWTP. Following the initial section of development, the full-capacity Lakeside WWTP will be constructed in phases of approximately 100,000 gallons per day of wastewater. The WWTP will be expanded in phases as the capacity of the then-existing Lakeside WWTP approaches 80% of capacity.

Ms. Price stated that she met with members of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) after their public hearing on October 28, 2021 on the application for State Discharge Permit 19-DP-3460 for the Lakeside Project. Ms. Price noted her intention was to make amendments to the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan as a compromise for dealing with this issue related to the Lakeside Project so as not to delay the project any further, however, the timing for introduction of an amendment for the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan is not until December as outlined in the Plan. Therefore, the resolution was not introduced and will be redrafted as a Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendment for introduction at the County Council's December 14th meeting.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ANY INTEREST TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND HOLDS IN FLOOD AVENUE TO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND THE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME

A resolution was brought forward to transfer the County's interest in Flood Avenue to the Town of Easton. The resolution is being proposed at the request of the Town of Easton. Councilman Pack requested clarification about the County's specific ownership of Flood Avenue. Resolution No. 310 was introduced by Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack and Ms. Price with a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROCEDURES REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF NUMBERED AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS, THE FILING OF PETITIONS, THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION, AND THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND TO CORRECT OUTDATED AND INCONSISTENT LANGUAGE

A resolution was brought forward to amend certain sections of the County Council's Rules of Procedure. Resolution No. 311 was introduced by Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack and Ms. Price with a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing:

Resolution No. 309, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 24108 MT. PLEASANT ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND 21663 AND SHOWN ON TAX MAP 32 AS PARCEL 85 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO "S-1" IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS

A public hearing was held on Resolution No. 309 which reclassifies and remaps property located at 24108 Mt. Pleasant Road in St. Michaels from unprogrammed to "S-1" immediate priority status for sewer connection. Ray Clarke, Talbot County Engineer, presented the request from the property owner to incorporate the 1.25-acre property in the County's water and sewer plan. The Public Works Advisory Board recommended the Council approve Resolution No. 309 by a vote of 4-0. The Planning Commission found that Resolution No. 309 was consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval by a vote of 4-0. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the resolution. The Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 309 which will take effect immediately.

Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1494, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND AN OFFICE TRAILER FOR THE REPURPOSING CENTER LOCATED AT 28128 ST. MICHAELS ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND

Bill No. 1494 was brought forward for vote which authorizes a capital project for the Repurposing Center located at 28128 St. Michaels Road in Easton. The Council unanimously approved Bill No. 1494.

Discussion of Preserve at Wye Mills and Request to Submit Letter of Intent to Assume Ownership of the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ray Clarke, County Engineer, briefed Council on issues at the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Clarke has been working with Phil Jackson, President, Homeowners Association of the Preserve at Wye Mills, representatives from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), RAUCH, Inc. and Talbot County Environmental Health Department on addressing compliance issues with the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant; currently the Wastewater Treatment Plant cannot support any additional wastewater flow from new construction. Mr. Clarke requested Council consideration to draft a letter of intent to MDE for the County to assume ownership of the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant so that the project will be eligible for grant funding from MDE for upgrade of the system. RAUCH, Inc. has completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the project. The Shared Facility Agreement contract for the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant identifies the County's Department of Public Works as the "controlling authority". As such, the controlling authority is ultimately responsible for the management, operation, and continuous preventative and corrective maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Council voted unanimously to send the letter of intent to MDE.

"You have been proactive in addressing this matter as an issue of public health for our County. We need to look at the future needs of the area," commented Council member Corey Pack.

"This is one of the times that government has the opportunity to step in and help and address this important environmental issue. As we go through this, we need to address the broader issue of wastewater issues in Wye Mills. Thank you for the work you have done on this issue," added Council member Divilio.

County Manager's Report:

- Board and Committee Appointments
The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Donald Webster to the Talbot County Weed Control Committee.
- Request from Department of Parks and Recreation to Utilize Contingency Funds for the Purchase of a New Truck
The Council unanimously approved the expenditure of \$28,719 from FY22 contingency funds to purchase a replacement truck for Parks and Recreation.
- Request for Letter in Support of St. Michaels Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission's Grant Application to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Pilot Design Project for Mitigation of Sea Level Rise and Stormwater Flooding and Its Economic Impact on St. Michaels Harbor) (Stormwater Infrastructure Study – West Side Harbor and San Domingo Creek Waterfront)

Roy Myers, member St. Michaels Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission, and Geneva Schaffle, Talbot County Emergency Management Coordinator, requested two letters of support to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the pilot design project for mitigation of

sea level rise and stormwater flooding and its economic impact on St. Michaels Harbor. This report will coordinate with the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan and determine the infrastructure needed to deal with the projected sea-level rise on St. Michaels in 2050. The grants will address the properties on West Harbor Road and E. Chew Avenue/St. Michaels Harbor and West Side Harbor and San Domingo Creek Waterfront where flooding has been occurring. No County funds are required. The Council unanimously approved submitting the requested letters of support to DNR.

- Request to Enter Into Contract with Alera Group for Compensation Study Analysis

The Council unanimously approved awarding a contract to the Alera Group in the amount of \$71,825 to conduct a compensation study which will: benchmark compensation data for full-time positions; provide analysis for the County's current grade and step system; improve the employee evaluation process; and help create a total rewards statement for employee benefits. The study will be completed in three months and there are sufficient funds in the County's budget for the study. The last analysis of the County's compensation structure was completed twenty years ago.

- Request from Department of Parks and Recreation to Enter Into Pool Management Contract Renewal for the 2022 Season

The Council voted unanimously to renew the pool management agreement with Coastline Pool Service for the 2022 season at a cost of approximately \$214,000. Coastline Pool Service provided the operation and maintenance service to the Bay Hundred Community (St. Michaels) and George Murphy (Easton) pools during the 2021 season and Preston Peper, Director, Parks and Recreation was pleased with their service. The Coastline Pool Service contract includes providing lifeguards, maintaining water quality, cleaning of pools and pool decks, training of all lifeguards and instructors, and maintaining pool chemicals.

Mr. Stamp announced the continuation of the public hearing on Resolution No. 308 and presentation by Mr. Dan Watson will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton. The public is invited to attend.

Mr. Stamp reported that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Office of Traffic Safety did not authorize the County's request for a reduction of the speed limit on Maryland Route 329 (Royal Oak Road), however, SHA does plan on making improvements to the roadway with paving and shoring up of edges and shoulders.

Mr. Stamp announced the County's issuance of Bid No. 21-12, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – REMOVAL OF COUNTY OWNED CONFEDERATE MONUMENT FROM TALBOT COUNTY COURTHOUSE GREEN – 11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, EASTON, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND. Sealed bids are due to the County Manager's Office by Friday, November 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. All bid documents can be found on the County's website at www.talbotcountymd.gov. The Council anticipates awarding the bid at their November 23rd meeting.

Mr. Stamp noted County offices will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021 in recognition of Veterans Day.



Caption: Pictured front row, left to right, are Megan Murray, Volunteer and Pathways Coordinator; Ginni Blackiston, Palliative Care Coordinator; Council member Frank Divilio; Dawn Ruby, Hospice Home Care Manager; Colby Hall, Hospice House Clinical Manager; Traci Corbin, Human Resources; and Mia Cranford, Director of Development. Pictured back row are Pete Leshner, Council Vice President and Laura Price, Council member.



Caption: Pictured front row, left to right, are Council member Frank Divilio; Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director, Talbot Humane. Pictured back row are Pete Lesher, Council Vice President, Laura Price, Council member and Corey Pack, Council member.